

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 765

By Williams

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Edith Kitts for her fine quilting abilities and for her laudable contributions to Union County.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those venerable and beloved individuals of our communities who, through their talents, compassion, and industriousness, bring happiness to others and contribute to the vast tapestry of humanity which is Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Edith Kitts is one such individual who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Edith Kitts, of Union County, is highly respected for her remarkable quilting abilities; in addition to making quilts for her family, she has completed quilts for the Union County Rescue Squad, the Union County Red Cross, and her church, Hubbs Grove Baptist; and

WHEREAS, prolific as she is talented, Edith Kitts, along with some friends, have formed a local crafting group, the Silver Stitches, who meet once a month; and

WHEREAS, although this eighty-five-year-old artisan quilts to stay busy and to make gifts, she recalls a time when quilting wasn't considered an art form but a necessity; and

WHEREAS, Edith Kitts, who lives just outside Maynardville with her dog, Bear, grew up in what is today the Chuck Swan Wildlife Management Area; when she was sixteen, her family was moved to the Walker Ford area to make way for Norris Lake; and

WHEREAS, one of eleven children born to parents Harley and Christina Raley, Edith Kitts's childhood home did not have electricity, or a refrigerator, or access to the postal service, a doctor, or a store; and

WHEREAS, during the winter months, when farming slowed, Christina Raley fashioned together a quilt using scraps of leftover fabric from the family's clothing, which she also made; and

WHEREAS, the family grew cotton, which they seeded and carded for quilt batting, and then pieced and backed the quilt by hand; and

WHEREAS, Edith Kitts eventually married Gray Kitts, and together they had five children; she later crafted a quilt for herself using her wedding dress; and

WHEREAS, she doesn't keep the quilts she makes, giving them instead as special gifts to her children and eight grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Edith Kitts exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Edith Kitts is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and she should be specially recognized, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize Edith Kitts for her outstanding quilting abilities and for her laudable contributions to her Union County community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.